

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 VO-03 SS-20 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCA-01 M-02 A-01 PPT-02 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 070897

R 141600Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3949

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: EMBASSY FILES PROTEST REGARDING INCIDENT

INVOLVING AMBASSADOR BOLEN AT SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY DELIVERED FIRST-PERSON NOTE FROM AMBASSADOR TO FONMIN MULLER TODAY. NOTE DESCRIBES INCIDENT INVOLVING AMBASSADOR BOLEN WHEN, AS HE ENTERED SOUTH AFRICA BY AUTOMOBILE ENROUTE TO JAN SMUTS AIRPORT FROM GABORONE SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, HE WAS COMPELLED, UNDER PROTEST, TO PAY TWO RAND FEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY PERMIT, DESPITE HIS POSSESSION OF VALID MULTIPLE-ENTRY SA VISA. NOTE REITERATES PROTEST THAT AMBASSADOR HAD LODGED WITH SAG EARLIER THIS WEEK CONCERNING INCIDENT AND MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SAG'S RESPONSE UNSATISFACTORY. IT ALSO STATES THAT INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND U.S. RE QUESTION OF ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS CROSSING INTO SOUTH AFRICA FROM BLS COUNTRIES. IT CONCLUDES THAT A FAVORABLE DECISION ON THE VISA QUESTION WOULD FORESTALL FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THE KIND WHICH OCCURRED TO AMBASSADOR BOLEN AND WOULD REMOVE AN EXTREME IRRITANT TO RELATIONS BETWEEN SA AND U.S. END SUMMARY.

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1. NOTE READS: "EXCELLENCY: I HAVE THE HONOR TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION AN INCIDENT INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND, MR. DAVID B. BOLEN. ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, AMBASSADOR BOLEN, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. BOLEN AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN, WAS ENROUTE TO JAN SMUTS AIRPORT FROM GABORONE. AT THE BORDER, AMBASSADOR BOLEN WAS INFORMED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL THERE THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO PAY THE TWO RAND FEE WHICH IS LEVIED ON PERSONS WHO HAVE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED AN ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT TO CROSS INTO SOUTH AFRICA. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR BOLEN HAD NOT, OF COURSE, REQUESTED AN ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT, THE EMBASSY OFFICE IN PRETORIA HAD NOTIFIED THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, THAT AMBASSADOR BOLEN WOULD BE CROSSING THE BORDER AT 9:00 A.M. AUGUST 11. DESPITE THE FACT THAT AMBASSADOR BOLEN IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AND SHOWED HIS PASSPORT WITH A VALID MULTIPLE ENTRY VISA, THE BORDER OFFICIAL WAS ADAMANT. AMBASSADOR BOLEN, WHOSE CHILDREN WERE DEPARTING JAN SMUTS AIRPORT FOR FRANKFURT THAT EVENING, HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PAY THE R2 FEE. THIS HE DID UNDER PROTEST.

2. "I WAS INFORMED OF THIS MATTER ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 12. I INSTRUCTED THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF OUR EMBASSY IN PRETORIA, MR. NORMAN PRATT, TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THERE ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RELATED THE OCCURRENCE TO SENIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN, WHO SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE. MR. PRATT POINTED OUT THAT BOTH AMBASSADOR BOLEN AND I WANTED AN EXPLANATION.

3. "I ALSO ATTEMPTED TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY FOURIE HERE IN CAPE TOWN. HE WAS NOT IN HIS OFFICE WHEN I CALLED, SO I LEFT WORD FOR HIM TO CALL ME BACK WHEN HE COULD. WHEN MR. FOURIE DID NOT RETURN MY CALL, I ASKED MY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, MR. DONALD PETTERSON, TO CONVEY THE PARTICULARS OF THE INCIDENT INVOLVING AMBASSADOR BOLEN TO UNDER-SECRETARY JOHN SELFE. MR. PETTERSON DID SO AND TOLD MR. SELFE THAT I STRONGLY PROTESTED WHAT HAD OCCURRED AND REQUESTED THAT SECRETARY FOURIE BE APPRISED OF THE SITUATION.

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4. "THIS MORNING MR. PRATT INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL YESTERDAY FROM MR. VAN DALSEN, WHO SAID THAT THE BORDER OFFICIAL HAD ERRED AND THAT AMBASSADOR BOLEN WOULD BE REFUNDED HIS R2. NO APOLOGY WAS OFFERED. I HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF THIS INCIDENT FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT NOR HAVE I BEEN GIVEN ANY EXPRESSION OF APOLOGY FOR THIS DEPLORABLE INCIDENT INVOLVING A UNITED

STATES AMBASSADOR. I FEEL I MUST POINT OUT THAT OCCURRENCES OF THIS KIND INEVITABLY PUT AN UNNECESSARY STRAIN ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES.

5. "THE INCIDENT INVOLVING AMBASSADOR BOLEN HIGHLIGHTS THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEM THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS CROSSING INTO SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 1, I AGAIN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF VISAS FOR AMERICANS ASSIGNED TO THE BLS COUNTRIES. I BRIEFLY RECOUNTED THE SPECIFICS OF OUR LONG-STANDING COMPLAINT AND OBSERVED THAT I FORESAW A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY THAT RECIPROCITY COULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. I STRESSED THAT THE 1956 VISA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA VERY SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES FOR GRATIS ONE-YEAR MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. YOU AND SECRETARY FOURIE INDICATED TO ME THAT THE MATTER WAS STILL UNDER STUDY BUT THAT YOU THOUGHT A DECISION WOULD BE REACHED SOON.

6. "IT IS MY EARNEST WISH THAT THIS ENTIRE MATTER BE RESOLVED FAVORABLY SO THAT INCIDENTS OF THE KIND WHICH OCCURRED TO AMBASSADOR BOLEN WILL CEASE AND THAT THIS EXTREME IRRITANT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE ENDED ONCE AND FOR ALL.

7. "ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."
HURD

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